



Photo by Todd Berenger

Morrell assumes command of defense force

Brig. Gen. Robert Martinez, New Mexico National Guard deputy adjutant general, left, presents command of the New Mexico State Defense Force to Col. Lawrence D. Morrell Aug. 2. Morrell was promoted to the rank of brigadier general after the change of command. Relinquishing command was New Mexico State Defense Force Brig. Gen. John Donnellon. The state defense force's missions are entirely focused on the state, assisting civil authorities, the New Mexico Army National Guard and those designated by the governor. Brig. Gen. Morrell is a retired clinical psychologist who served as commanding officer of the Young Marine Battalion at Lincoln Middle School in Rio Rancho. Since 1997, he has worked as the counselor at Rio Rancho High School where he is the school's military liaison officer and registrar for the Selective Service.

Directed Energy Directorate establishes new division

Air Force officials announced the establishment of a Beam Control Division at the Air Force Research Laboratory's Directed Energy Directorate here.

The new division focuses on compensating for optical disturbances in the atmosphere in regard to imaging and laser propagation.

Headed by Lt. Col. Mark C. Crews, the division combines the Starfire Optical Range Division with the Airborne Laser Technologies Branch and will have approximately 65 military and civilian personnel.

"Combining beam control expertise and talents into a cohesive group,

allows the organization of a technical program synergy for New Mexico optical sites, such as the Starfire Optical Range and North Oscura Peak," said Crews.

Starfire Optical Range and North Oscura Peak are two of the nation's premier optical ranges for atmospheric compensation and control of laser beams.

These optical ranges are used for laser weapons development, earth to space laser propagation research, high-resolution satellite imaging, atmospheric turbulence research, and adaptive optics technology development.

Starfire Optical Range is on a hilltop in the southeastern portion of Kirtland AFB. Its primary mission is to develop optical sensing, imaging and propagation technologies to support Air Force aerospace missions.

North Oscura Peak is a site in the northern portion of White Sands Missile Range, N.M. It is designed to assemble and evaluate advanced sensor tracking and atmospheric compensation systems.

The new division's main goal is to improve the Air Force's ability to track missiles and then efficiently transmit laser energy through the atmosphere to destroy those missiles.

The mission of the new division is to develop, demonstrate and transition advanced beam control system technologies to provide high-performance, operational capabilities in beam control for laser applications.

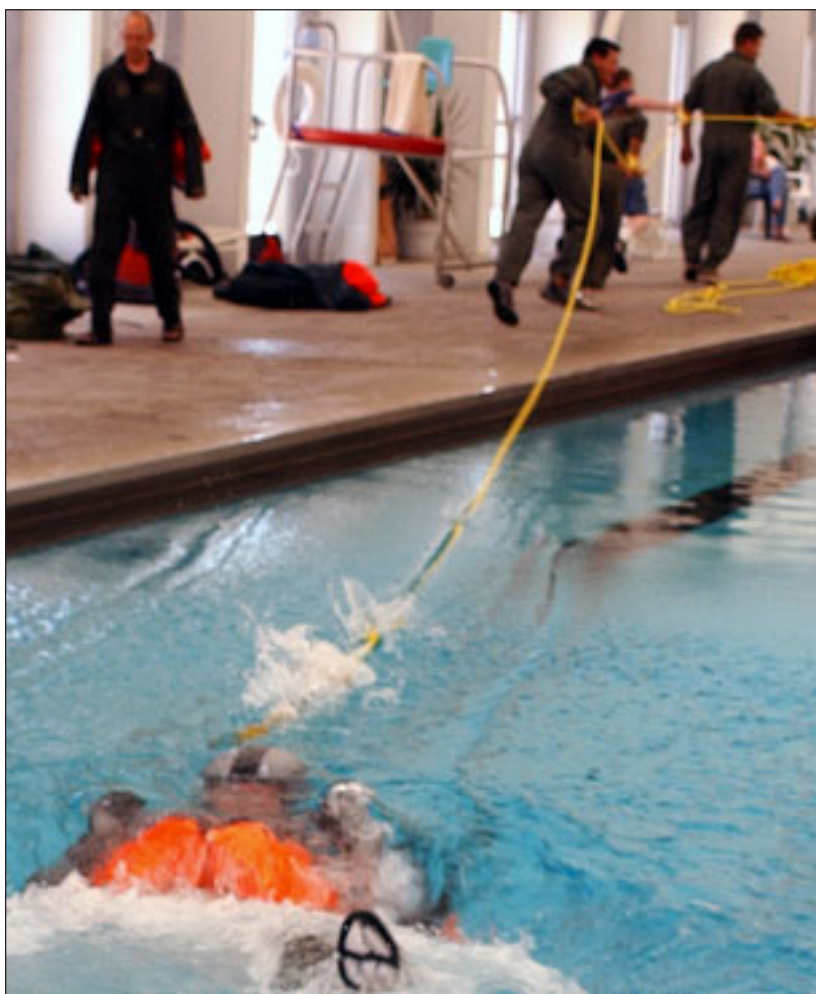
Crews received a bachelor's degree from the U.S. Air Force Academy in 1982 and a master's degree from Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1987, both in electrical engineering.

He received a doctorate in electrical engineering from the University of Oxford, England, in 1992.

The new division chief is a native of Oklahoma City.



58th Life Support teaches water survival



ABOVE—Tech. Sgt. James Brennan, 58th Operations Support Squadron life support, instructs Tech. Sgt. Tim Goken, 550th Special Operations Squadron flight engineer, in several techniques to use when landing in the water. The 58th Operations Support Squadron life support shop helps teach and maintain proper functioning of the Air Force Life Support System within the 58th Special Operations Wing. This system includes life-sustaining equipment and the associated procedures used by aircrew and passengers in-flight, during aircraft escape, descent to ground level and survival until recovery and return to duty.

Photos by Dennis Carlson

LEFT—Tech. Sgt. Tim Goken, 550th Special Operations Squadron flight engineer, demonstrates the incorrect way to release from a parachute when landing in water. Goken is participating in water survival training taught by the 58th Operations Support Squadron life support shop. Life support also maintains survival equipment and trains aircrews on water and land survival and evading capture procedures.